THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The National Sports Federation concerned is responsible for the promotion and development of the sports discipline(s) coming within its jurisdiction. Accordingly, in the instant case, the Indian Hockey Federation is responsible for the promotion and development of hockey in the country. With regard to Government assistance for identification and nurturing of talent, this is done through different schemes of the Ministry and the Sports Authority of India (SAI). Under the Sports Scholarship Scheme, the Ministry gives scholarships to promising sportspersons who have excelled at National State and University levels. The scheme is implemented through SAI and the selected sportspersons have access to SAI training facilities. Similarly, the SAI under its scheme entitled 'National Sports Talent contest' scheme, adopt schools for prqmoting specific sports disciplines, which includes hockey. SAI also promotes hockey under is schemes entitled 'Special Area Games'. Moreover, Government gives grants-in-aid to National Sports Federations for overall development of the sports disciplines, which includes holding of competitions, training, participation in international tournaments and procurement of sports equipments.

Shortage of sports infrastructure

†2721. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of Indian sports is poorer than rest of the world;

(b) whether it is a fact that the country has.acute shortage of sports-infrastructure and training facilities; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. There are many countries, but not all, which are ahead of India in Sports.

(b) and (c) 'Sports' being a State subject in the constitution, the primary responsibility for the-promotion of sports including the creation of sports infrastructure and training facilities, lies with State Governments. In the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

past, efforts of trie State Governments towards the creation of sports infrastructure had been supplemented by the.Government of India through Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes. This has, however, been discontinued since 01.04.2005. While there is considerable sports infrastructure in the country created by State Governments either under State Scheme or Centrally Sponsored Schemes as well as in the Corporate Sector and private individuals, and the Sports Authority of India's Training Centres, sub-centres, Regional Centre, there is no denying that there is considerable scope for augmenting the country's sports infrastructure.

With a view to meeting the shortage of sports infrastructure at the grass-root .levels, particularly in rural areas, the Ministry proposes to launch during the Xlth Plan, a Scheme, provisionally entitled 'Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan', to provide access to organized games and sports, to large sections of the youth adolescents and children, both as an activity integral to youth development and to widen the catchment for scouting and nurturing talent and improving performance in competitive sports at the National and International levels. Discussions regarding the Scheme are underway with the State Governments and other stake-holders concerned.

Status of preparation for the Commonwealth Games

2722. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of preparation of the Commonwealth games infrastructure;

(b) whether the progress is satisfactory; and

(c) the status of the preparation of the various sports teams/participants for the same?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The locations for all the major competition and training venues, Games Village and the major non-competition venue *viz.* International Broadcasting Centre (IBC)/Main Press Centre (MPC), has been agreed to between all the stakeholders. All the stakeholders have indicated their specific time lines with reference to key milestones, *viz.,* finalization of detailed design and estimates, commencement of tendering process, award of work, commencement of work, completion of work and